

Nads drop opener against Range Company, 18-17

LANCE CPL.
JUSTIN J.SHEMANSKI
STAFF WRITER

In the end of this nail-biter, Range Company’s ability to keep their head in the game allowed them to slip by the Nads 18-17 during Gold Division Intramural Softball play at the Parris Island Sports Complex May 13.

The top two teams in the league clashed, hoping to gain a leg up in the standings, but the game turned out to be much closer than either had hoped. Simple mistakes would make the difference between a win or a devastating loss.

The Nads stumbled a bit with their defensive play early in the first, and Range Company took advantage of them to gain an early five-run lead before taking the field. But the Nads answered right back in the bottom of the first with several well placed hits, resulting in a one-run lead.

Playing from behind did not faze Range Company, as they pelted the Nads outfield, scoring four more runs in the second to give them a little more padding. To compliment their lead, they played great defense to keep the Nads at six runs, giving themselves an opportunity to widen the gap even more in the third.

The Nads’ defense suddenly pulled themselves together in the third and quickly sent Range Company back out to the field, putting them in a great position to take back the lead. Range Com-

pany’s defense slipped a little bit in the bottom of the third as the Nads’ power hitters showed their muscle, scoring six runs for a 12-9 lead before heading back out on defense.

Range Company had a few hits here and there throughout the inning, but was only able to muster one run before the side was retired. The Nads had a few more hits in the bottom of the fifth but failed to score.

Range Company gained its second wind going into the fifth, scattering hits all over the field to send in six much needed runs to take a 16-14 lead. The Nads tried to answer back, but could only manage two runs in the bottom of the fifth and sank into the sixth still trailing by two.

The Nads tightened their defensive screws in the sixth, holding Range Company at 16 runs, but they were not able to make anything happen on offense.

The game culminated in the seventh inning with the teams separated by a mere two runs. Range Company quickly added two more runs but the Nads pulled themselves together once again to put an end to the scoring. They went into their last bat with the same confidence they have had all season, but it just was not enough.

They were only able to score three runs before Range Company sealed the deal with a too close for comfort 18-17 win.

“It was pretty close,” said Will Cuellar, Range Company short-stop. “I actually thought they were

going to tie, forcing us into an extra inning. The Nads were great competition and gave us a good battle.”

Competition in the gold division will only get better as the season progresses, and each team will have to work a little harder to finish the season with a respectable record, not taking anything they did in the first half of the season for granted.

“Going in I figured we would win,” said Clark Schindler, Nads coach/player. “But we committed too many errors to finish it out on top.”

Cuellar feels his team just needs to work on their focus in the early innings and they should finish out pretty well among the level of competition.

“Our game was pretty much and introduction to the remainder of the season ... a close race until the end,” he said.

Medical rocks Weapons, 16-4

Gold Division softball action continued May 13 as the seemingly unstoppable Medical team routed Weapons 16-4 after just five innings of play.

Both teams came into the game refusing to give an inch, leaving the first inning scoreless.

Weapons continued their flawless defensive play into the second inning, pulling off a double play to quickly put two outs on the board, but Medical still managed to sneak in the first run of the game,



Lance Cpl. Justin J. Shemanski

The Nads’ pitcher Jeff Epstein sends another pitch toward home during a game against Range Company at the Parris Island Sports Complex May 13. Range Company won 18-17 in seven innings.

before going out on defense.

Weapons came out on offense determined to take the lead, and with a couple of hits crushed out to center field, they took a two-run lead before heading back out to the field.

Medical did most of their damage in the third, blasting hit after hit into the outfield, ending up

with 10 runs scored before Weapons were able to put a cork in their defensive leak.

The third inning looked promising for Weapons as well. They quickly loaded the bases, but soon after, lost their momentum to finish the inning still at three runs.

Medical continued their hitting streak clear into the fifth inning, were they eventually won the

contest 16-4.

“We had a really bad day,” said Tyler Morris, Weapons pitcher/coach. “We were short on players and another big thing was our hitting ... we seem to hit in flares. If we could just string it all together, we’d be all right. If we just work on that, we’ll finish strong.”



Lance Cpl. Justin J. Shemanski

Scott Fugate, Parris Island Sting defenseman, takes a shot on goal during the teams practice at the Parris Island Sports Complex May 13. The team is currently ranked 20th in the nation.

PI Sting dominates soccer tournament

LANCE CPL.
JUSTIN J. SHEMANSKI
STAFF WRITER

The countless hours of practice and buckets of sweat the Depot soccer team poured into their training finally paid off, as they kicked and clawed their way to a first-place victory in the Soccer Six Solar Tournament sponsored by Bear Foot Sports in Orlando, Fla., May 8-9.

The Parris Island Sting, a combination of players from MCAS Beaufort, Naval Hospital Beaufort and Parris Island, faced off in the weekend tournament against several semi-pro level teams from surrounding states in fast paced six-on-six match-ups. Despite the tough competition, they managed to earn top honors.

“I thought the team’s play at the

tournament was outstanding,” said Andrew Comrie, coach of the Parris Island Sting for the past year. “Going into the tournament, I thought we would do pretty well. We always seem to get second place, so I figured we’d probably take the next step up.”

The tournament was just one of the stops in the adult soccer level Soccer Six Tournament Series, in which teams from all over the Southeastern United States participate in. According to Davison Donisleal, Parris Island Sting player and assistant coach, his team went up against opponents from Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. He noted that the Sting were the only military team to participate in the tournament.

“It was pretty tough competition there,” said Donisleal. “Some of

those players were semi-pro ... most of them play for their college teams, but there was only one team that really gave us a tough time. We actually tied a team from Georgia in the first game of the finals.”

Mark Weisner, tournament director and founder of Bear Foot Sports, said things went pretty well with the Orlando-based tournament, and it will only get better as the years go by and word gets out about it.

“We had 20 teams come out this year, which is really great for a tournament’s first year,” said Weisner, whose company is responsible for producing the nation’s largest network of adult soccer tournaments. “The tournament as a whole is very competitive. After teams register, they are divided up into different divisions to compliment each team’s caliber

of play, ensuring the best matchups.”

The Sting, comprised of about a dozen dedicated players, travels throughout the region to compete in several of the Soccer Six Tournament Series events each year.

“We’ve been practicing a lot more lately to work on team chemistry and to be better prepared for these tournaments,” said Comrie. “The games are very fast paced and we want to be sure that we are up to the skill levels of our opponents.”

Comrie believes that as long as his team members keep their heads in the game and do not get over confident, they will have many more victories ahead of them in the next year.

“We aren’t taking our tournament for granted, but right now I think we will be the team to beat,” he concluded.